



# FEMA

**Disclaimer:** The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to [www.weather.gov/srh](http://www.weather.gov/srh) and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

## FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

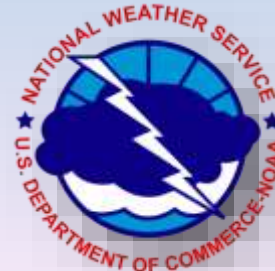
Issued: 0800 CT

**Day 1 Threat: Elevated to Critical Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX/OK Panhandles and W OK. Red Flag Warning in effect across W OK.**

***Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.***

***Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.***

National Weather Service  
Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Felecia Bowser  
817-978-1100 x 147

# Key Points



## Today through Sunday

- Freeze Warning expires 10 am TODAY across NE AR.
- Elevated to Critical Fire Weather conditions in E NM, TX & OK Panhandles and W OK TODAY expanding to the Upper Trans-Pecos TOMORROW through SUNDAY. A Red Flag Warning is in effect across W OK TODAY.
- Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms possible across extreme NE TX, N LA, SE OK and AR on FRIDAY.

## River Flood Status

- Minor to Moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede through this weekend.
- The Ouachita River at Felsenthal Lock and Dam in AR is near the end of its broad crest of 85.5 ft. (2.5 ft. above moderate flood stage). The Ouachita River at Columbia Lock and Dam in LA is not expected to crest until Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 69 ft. (2 ft. above moderate flood stage).
- The Mississippi River at Helena, AR is falling from its crest. The river at New Madrid, MO and Tiptonville, AR are expected to fall below flood stage the evening of Friday March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The crest on the MS River is just upriver of Arkansas City, AR. The river at Arkansas City will climb slowly today to reach a crest of 43 ft.
- The Atchafalaya River continues to rise; the crest at Morgan City is expected to reach 8.0 ft. (moderate flood stage) on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

# FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 14, 2018 - Mar 18, 2018

DAY / THREAT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Severe Storms			AR, NE TX, N LA, SE OK		
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					
Fire Weather	E NM/ TX/OK Panhandles /W OK	E NM/ TX/OK Panhandles/Upper Trans-Pecos/ W OK	E NM TX/OK Panhandles/South Plains/Upper Trans- Pecos/W OK/Permian Basin	E NM TX/OK Panhandles/Upper Trans-Pecos	E NM TX/OK Panhandles /Upper Trans- Pecos
Winter	NW AR				
River Flooding	E & S AR, N, E & SE LA				
	E TX, LA, AR				

	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

*For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.*



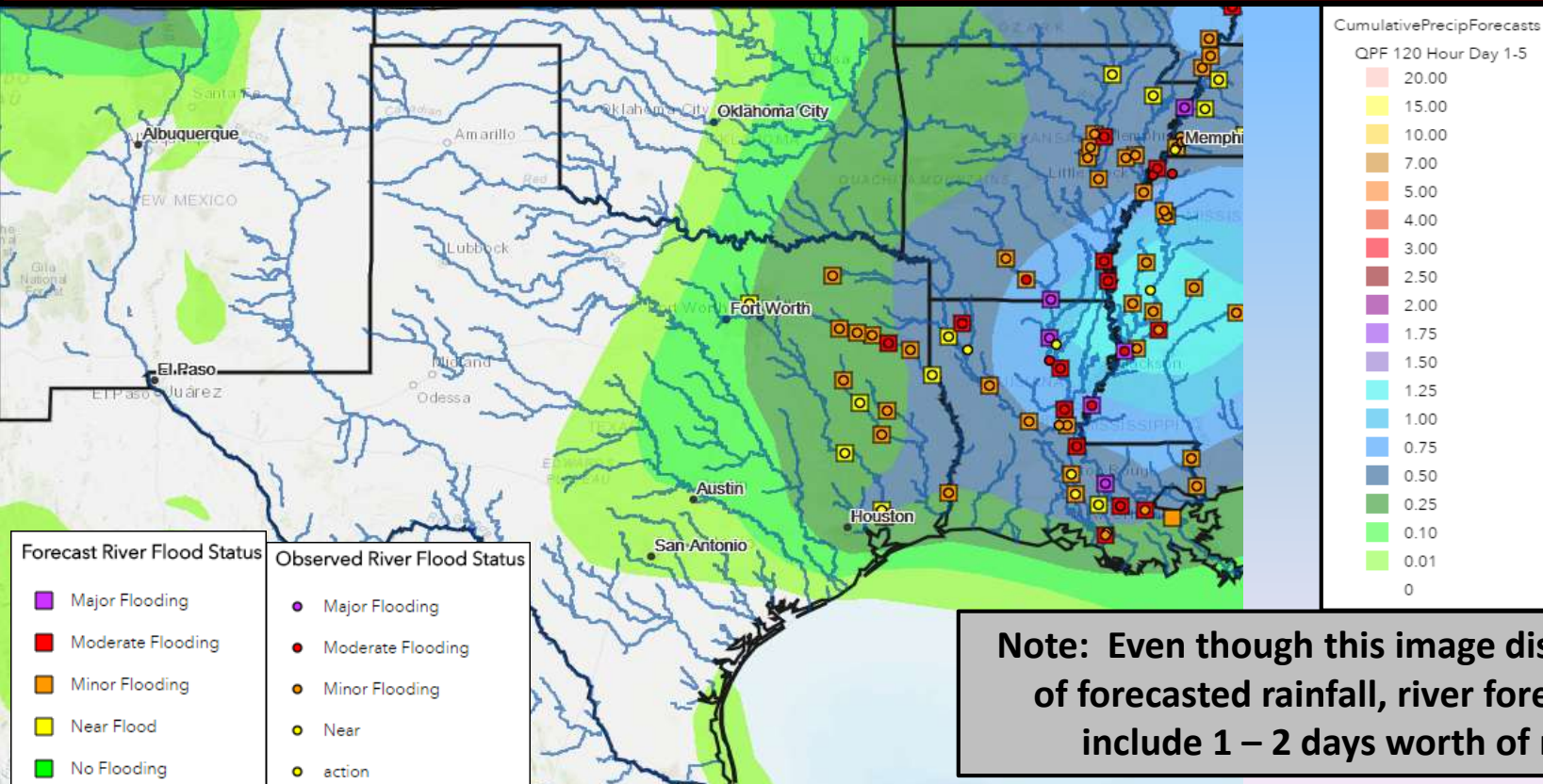
# 5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

- The Ouachita River at Felsenthal Lock and Dam in AR is near the end of its broad crest of 85.5 ft. (2.5 ft. above moderate flood stage). The Ouachita River at Columbia Lock and Dam in LA is not expected to crest until Saturday

The crest on the MS River is just upriver of Arkansas City, AR. The river at Arkansas City will climb slowly today to reach a crest of 43 ft.

- The Atchafalaya River continues to rise; the crest at Morgan City is expected to reach 8.0 ft. (moderate flood stage) on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Note: Even though this image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1 – 2 days worth of rainfall.

See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding





# Mississippi River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 13, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

🐦 @NWSLMRFC



★ Location of Mississippi River Crest Today    ● Forecast Assumes operation at Bonnet Carré





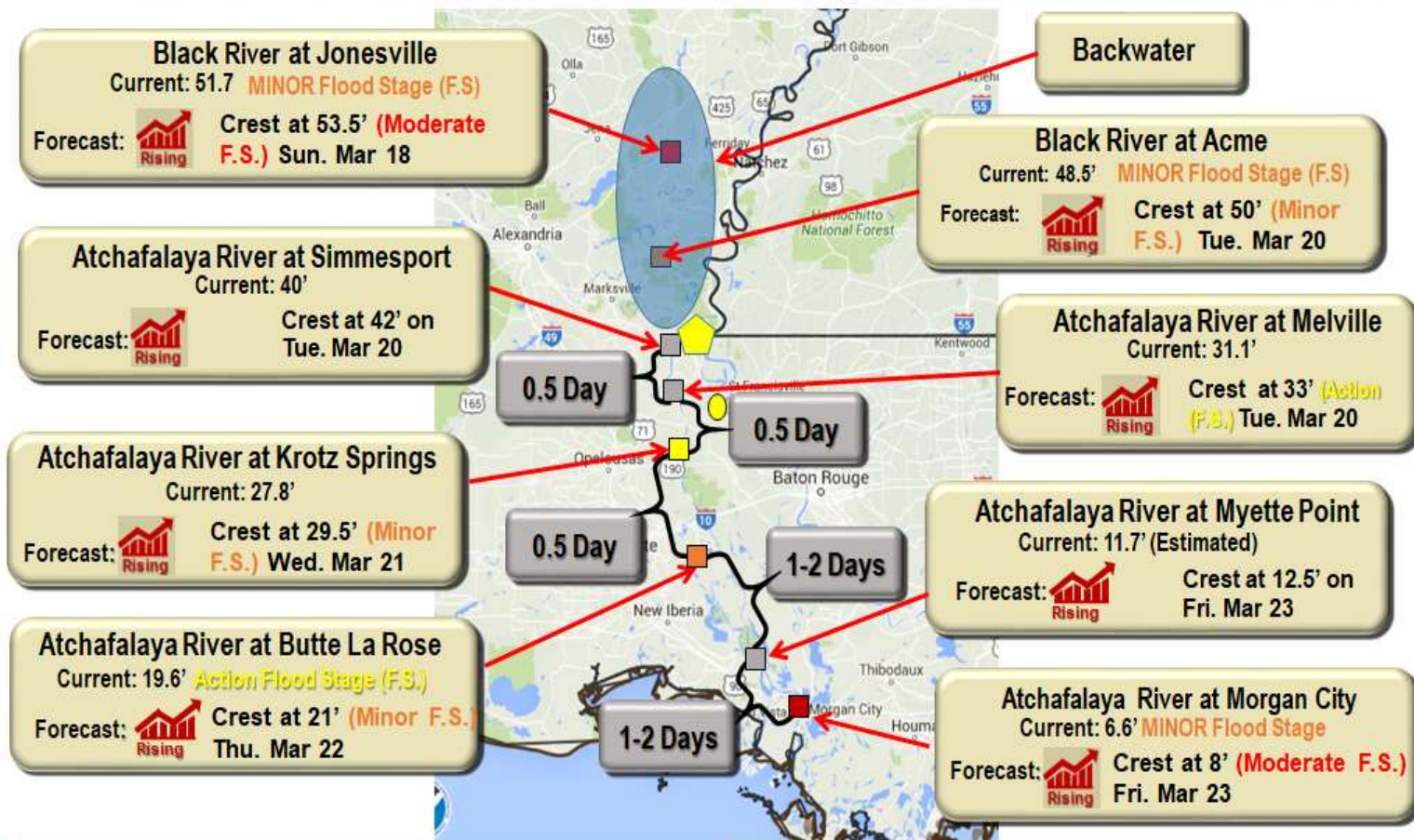
# Atchafalaya River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 13, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



- Old River Control Structure
- Forecast assumes no operation at Morganza

**Backwater - Water moving upstream from Old River Control Structure**



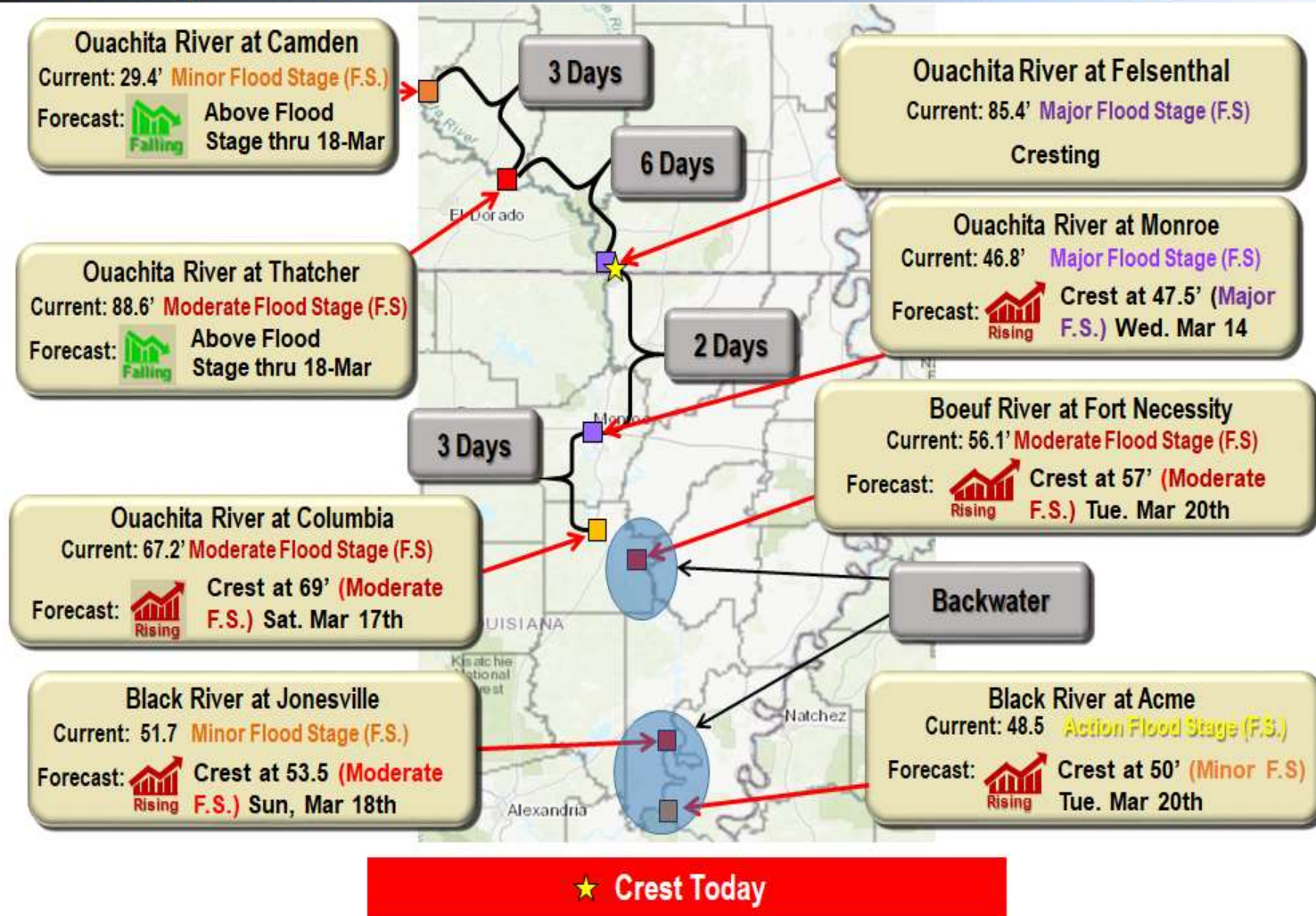
# Ouachita River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Crests and LMRFC forecasts  
produced morning of March 13, 2018

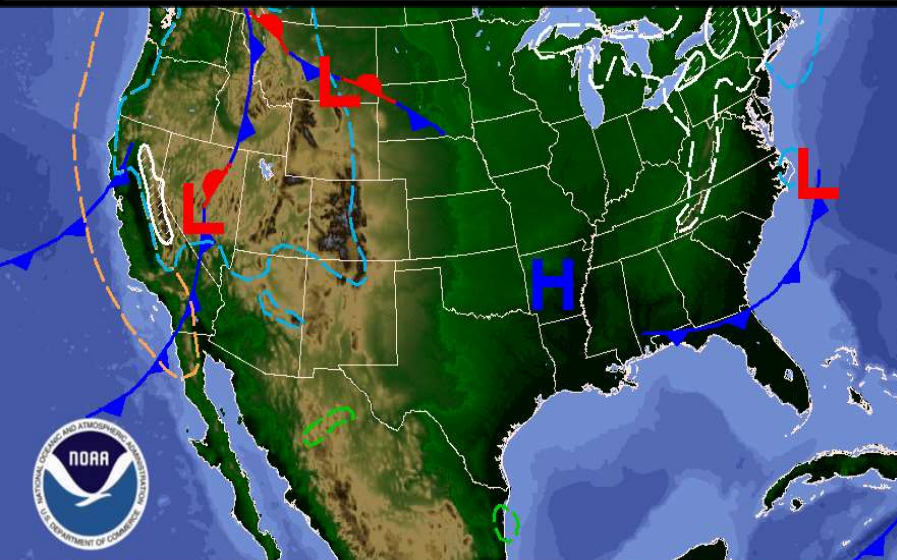
f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



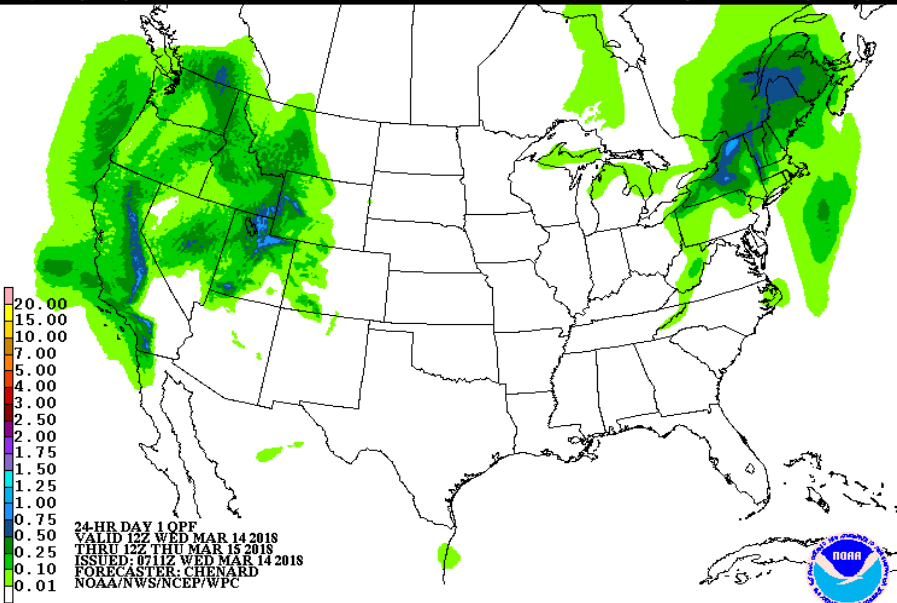


# Today's Weather



**Day 1 National Forecast Chart**  
Valid Wed, Mar 14, 2018, issued 4:54 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow  
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Elevated Fire Weather in E NM, TX & OK Panhandles & W OK

Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

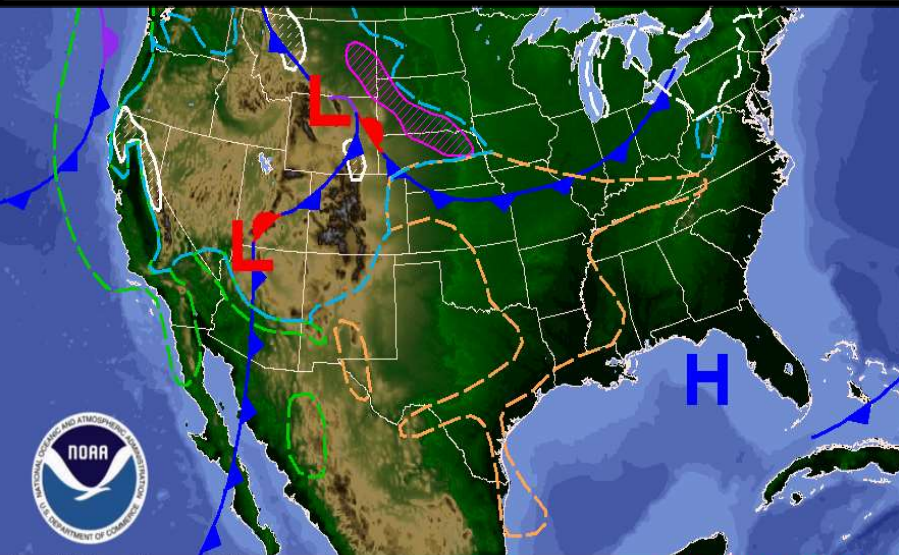
## Severe Weather Outlook Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 14 2018 12:18 AM CDT  
Valid until: Mar 15 2018 07:00 AM CDT





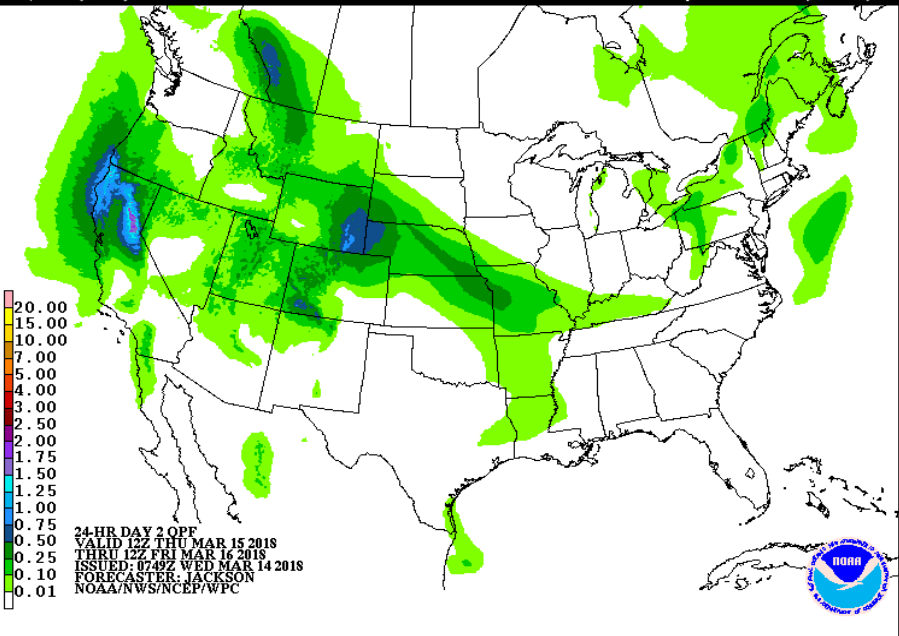
# Tomorrow's Weather



## Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Mar 15, 2018, issued 5:00 AM EDT Wed, Mar 14, 2018  
 DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
 Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
 Rain and T'Storms  
 Rain and Snow  
 Snow  
 Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
 Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
 Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
 Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



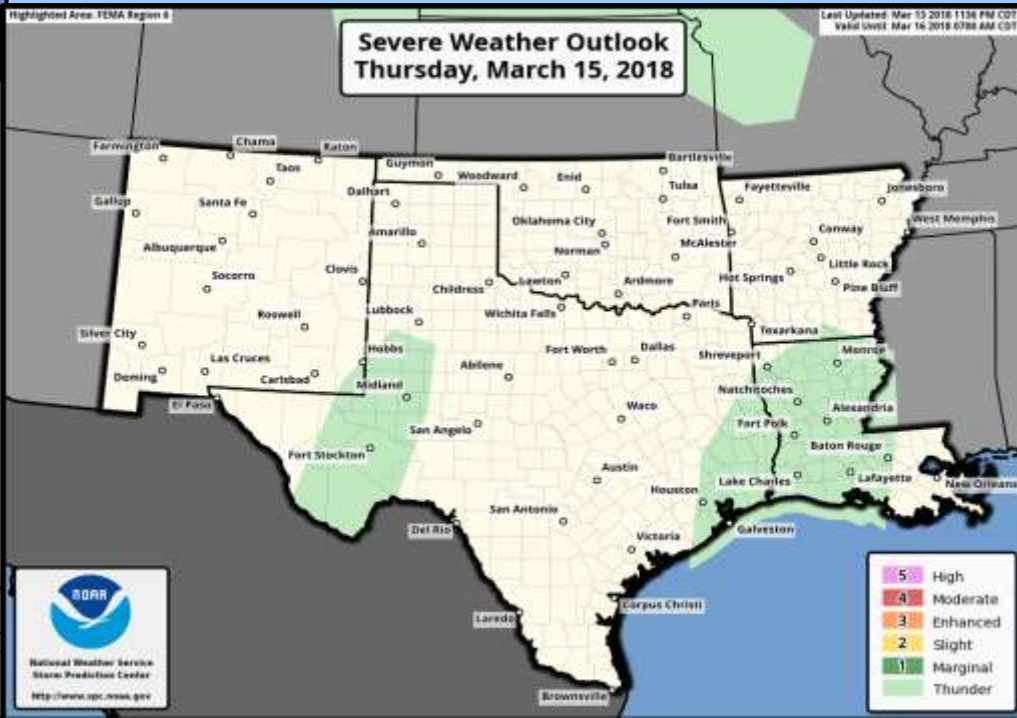
24-HR DAY 2 OPF  
 VALID 12Z THU MAR 15 2018  
 THRU 12Z FRI MAR 16 2018  
 ISSUED 0749Z WED MAR 14 2018  
 FORECASTER: JACKSON  
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC



**Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.**

**Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.**

**Elevated Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX & OK Panhandles, W OK and Upper Trans-Pecos.**

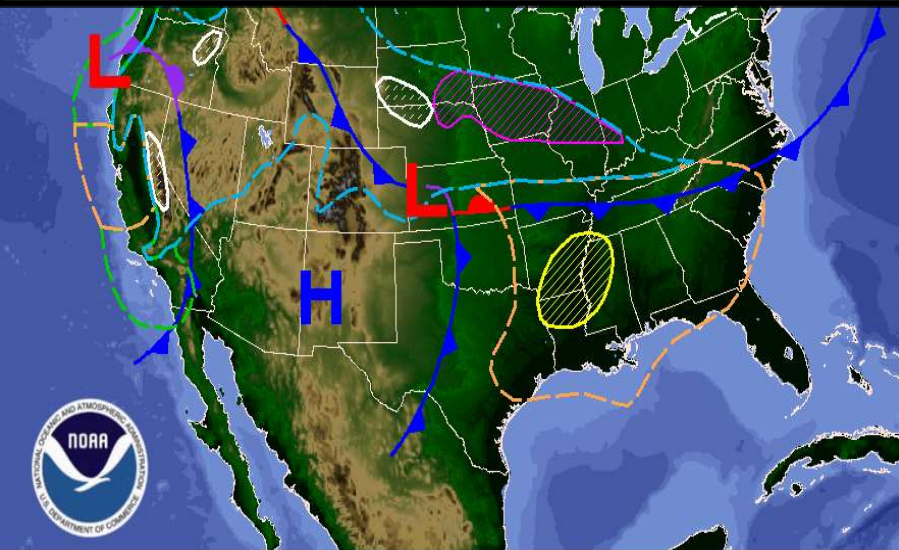


## Severe Weather Outlook Thursday, March 15, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 13 2018 1138 PM CDT  
 Valid Until: Mar 16 2018 0700 AM CDT



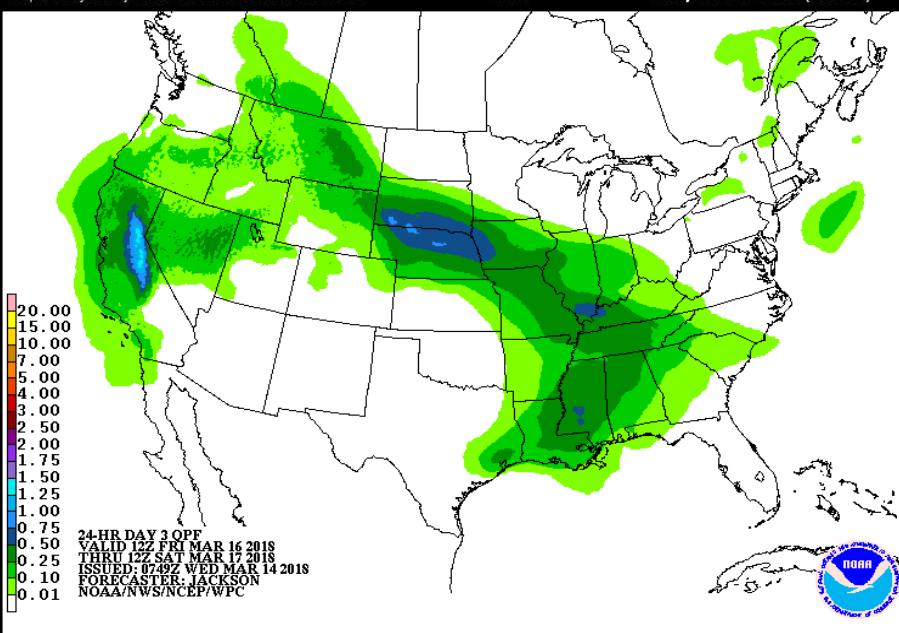
# Friday's Weather



## Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Mar 16, 2018, Issued 5:06 AM EDT Wed, Mar 14, 2018  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow  
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

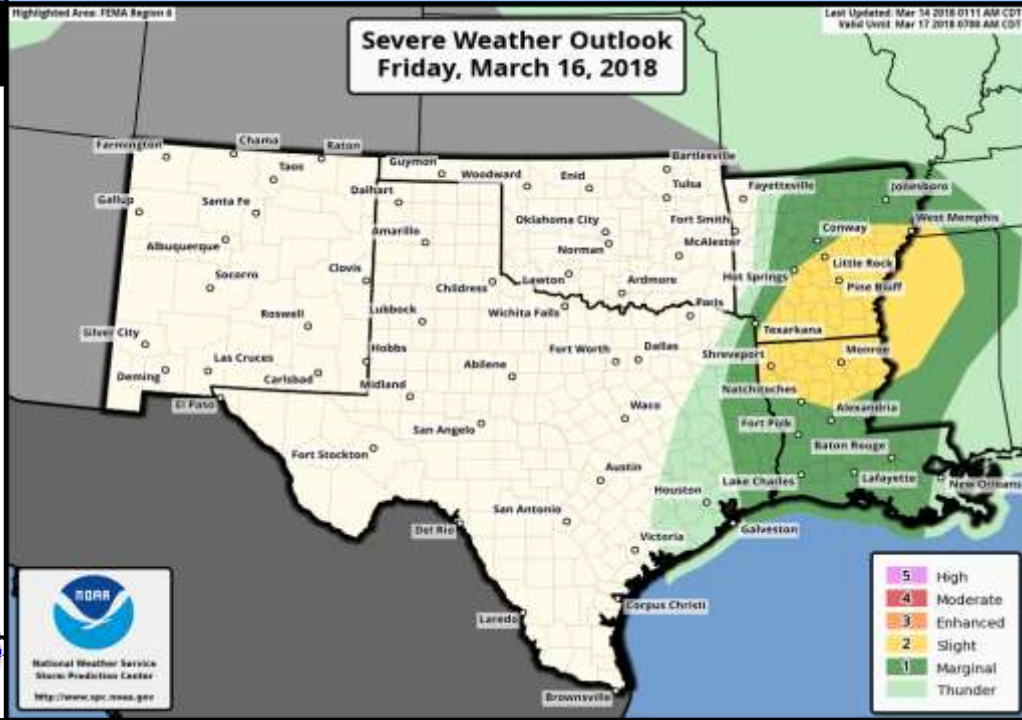


**Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.**

**Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.**

**Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms across SE OK, NE TX, N LA and AR.**

**Elevated Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX & OK Panhandles, W OK and Upper Trans-Pecos, South Plains & Permian Basin.**



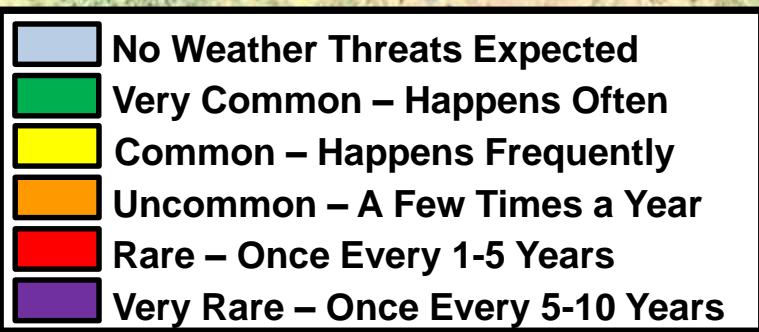


# Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

## *Saturday - Sunday*



**Sunday:  
Elevated to Critical Fire  
Weather conditions  
possible.**



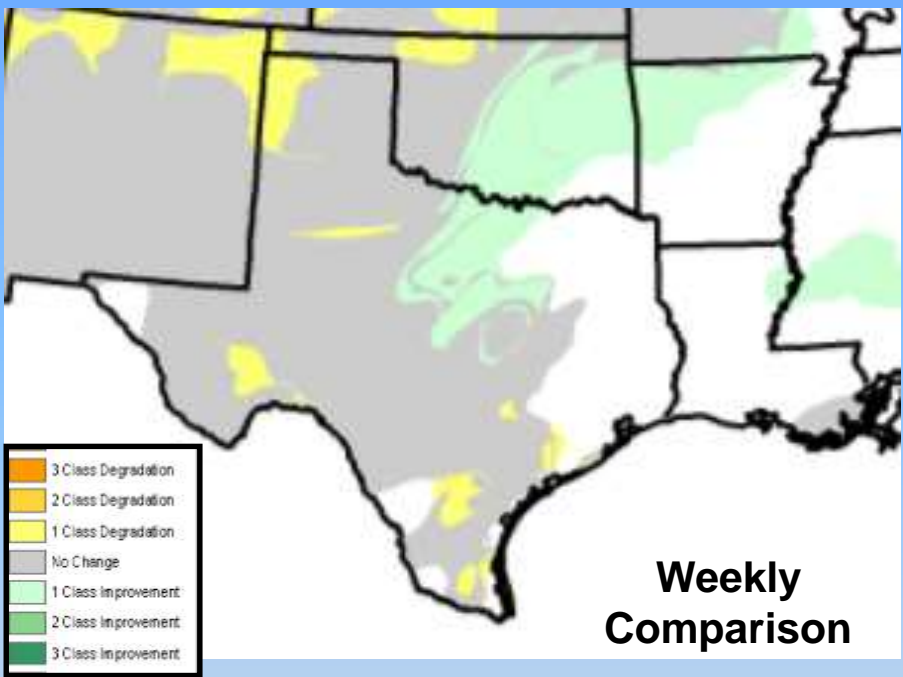
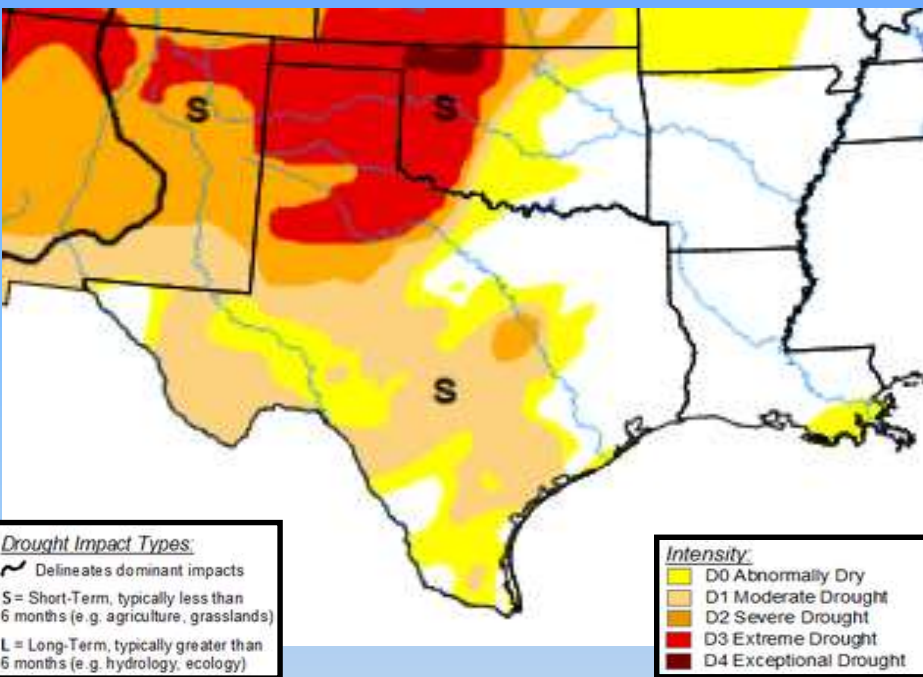
**\*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.**





# Drought Monitor Released March 8, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 6, 2018



Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)				
State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	14.66%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.45%	32.91%	0.78%	3.17%
Texas	14.16%	11.47%	0.00%	0.00%
New Mexico	17.08%	5.23%	0.00%	0.00%

# Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Geomagnetic Storms	Quiet (Max Kp = 5)	Quiet (Max Kp = 5)	Quiet (Max Kp = 4)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



Normal X-ray Background  
Product Valid At : 2018-03-14 10:13 UTC

Normal Proton Background  
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA



Information provided by:



**National Weather Service**  
**Southern Region Headquarters**  
**Regional Operations Center**  
**Fort Worth, TX**

Phone: (682) 703-3747 **\*New Direct Number**  
E-mail: [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov)  
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

**facebook**

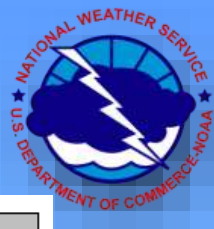
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The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov).



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	<b>Very Common</b> Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees</li> <li>Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX</li> </ul>
Yellow	<b>Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently</b> Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible</li> <li>Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail</li> </ul>
Orange	<b>Uncommon – A Few Times a Year</b> Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely</li> <li>Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail</li> <li>Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected</li> </ul>
Red	<b>Rare – Once every 1-5 Years</b> Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days</li> <li>Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail</li> <li>Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue</li> </ul>
Purple	<b>Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years</b> Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow</li> <li>Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms</li> </ul>